



Iowa Range

statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

swamp milkweed

Asclepias incarnata

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering
plants

Features

Swamp milkweed is a perennial herb. Its stems are upright, branched, smooth, and may grow to five feet tall. The stems and leaves have a milky sap. The simple leaves are lance-shaped, up to four inches long, and up to one inch wide. Pink hour-glass shaped flowers grow in clusters. They are up to one-third inch long. Each seed has long, silky hairs on one end. Seeds are contained in pods, which may be up to five inches long.

Natural History

Swamp milkweed grows in prairie marshes, fens, wet ditches, and wet meadows. It flowers from June through September. Its roots provide food for muskrats. The swamp milkweed, along with other milkweeds, was cultivated for food in the past.

Habitats

natural lakes and prairie marshes; wet prairies and fens

Iowa Status

common, native